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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-364

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT North America, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor at amsat dot org.

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ANS-364 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 364.01
>From AMSAT HQ KENSINGTON, MD.
December 30, 2018
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-364.01

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"bugs" are encouraged, but not required. The important thing is to get on the air and have fun, as Bill did.

[ANS thanks Ray Soifer, W2RS for the above information.]

Soyuz Flight Deploys Amateur Radio Satellites

The Soyuz flight on December 27th carrying a pair of Kanopus V remote sensing satellites also deployed two German Orbital Systems D-Star ONE satellites: D-Star ONE - Sparrow and D-Star ONE - iSat. Beacons have been successfully received. These satellites carry a D-STAR parrot repeater that will be available for use by amateur radio operators. The uplink is 437.325 MHz and the downlink is 435.525 MHz.

The flight also deployed the UWE-4 1U CubeSat carrying an electric propulsion experiment and a 70cm 9k6 AX.25 digipeater. The uplink and downlink frequency is 437.375 MHz. The digipeater will be active after the Launch and Early Operations Phase (LEOP)

More information on the launch and other payloads deployed can be found at http://russianspaceweb.com/kanopus-v5-v6.html

[ANS thanks Russian Space Web, German Orbital Systems and the IARU for the above information]

In-Orbit Test (IOT) of Es’hail-2 AMSAT P4-A transponders

AMSAT-DL notes that the In-Orbit testing (IOT) of the P4-A ham radio transponders on Es’hail-2 have started.

In a statement regarding the status of the transponders for amateur radio use AMSAT-DL said, "However: Please be reminded, that under no circumstances uplink attempts should be done! Like everyone, we are very excited by the received signals so far and we do appreciate any monitoring and receiving reports from the amateur radio community. We are happy to see how much interest and enthusiasm this satellite already created in our community."

And continuing, "Any unsolicited transmissions will delay the commissioning and maybe even worse, might influence our good relation with Es’hailSat during this project.

When a new satellite is launched, a number of tests are performed to verify that the stress loads imposed by the launch have not affected the on-board systems. An RF in-orbit test (IOT) is conducted to verify the performance of communication payloads. These operations are typically performed by the manufacturer of the satellite, in this case by MELCO engineers. These operations also include both AMSAT P4-A transponders on-board Es’hail-2. Such acceptance tests are part of the commercial contract and usually consists of Power, Frequency and other measurements like: Gain transfer, EIRP, In-Band and Out-Band response, receive & transmit antenna cross-polarization isolation, antenna gain, Gain-to-temperature ratio (G/T), Gain adjustments, TWT settings, Spacecraft spurious signal search, intermodulation, LO and beacon frequency stability and much more…

When all IOT tests are successful performed, the satellite will be moved to it’s final position at 26°E and handed-over to it’s owner Es’hailSat.

Please understand that AMSAT-DL is not authorized to give any details of the above operations in advance.

[ANS thanks AMSAT-DL for the above information]

Changes to the AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution for December 27, 2018

The identification of the 64 satellites launched by SpaceX SSO-A mission on December 3, 2018 continues. As noted last week, the consensus is that the spacing between unidentified satellites is STILL not to a point where positive identification is possible. In the past, two weeks after launch has been the time when distance between cubesats increases enough to identify most individual satellites. But, this time, we must wait for more separation.

There are no major changes to the previous AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution (Thursday, December 20, 2018) for the IDENTIFIED SSO-A launch objects at this time except for the following comments:

(1) There is a disagreement between this week's TLE distribution (Thursday, December 27, 2018) and the Space-Track data of the same date. Space-Track shows PWSat 2 as OBJECT 43814, but detailed doppler analysis suggests that PWSat 2 is object 43775 or 43779. Hopefully this will be resolved in the coming week. In the mean time, all three objects 43775, 43779, and 43814 are included in this week's distribution with PWSat 2 shown as CAT ID 43775.

(2) Space-Track has decided that OBJECT 43769 is now FLOCK 3S 1 (a commercial satellite). OBJECT 43769 was the object that we had used last week for AO 95. So, we are now going to use OBJECT 43771 for AO-95. OBJECT 43771 is the other object we think may be AO-95. Remember these objects are still too close together so we must wait for more separation. Patience!

(3) Also we are still awaiting greater separation for JO 97 (ex JY1Sat). JO-97 is shown as OBJECT 43803 but may be 43801. The downlink is 145.839085 MHz.

(4) The following objects have been identified as non-amateur radio satellites and have been removed from this week's distribution:
EXCITE - CAT ID 43758 (identified by Space-Track, non-amateur)
KAZSTSAT - CAT ID 43783 (identified by Space-Track, non-amateur)
FLOCK 3S 3 - NORAD CAT ID 43788 (identified by Space-Track, non-amateur)
FLOCK 3S 2 - NORAD CAT ID 43821 (identified by Space-Track, non-amateur)

Thanks to Nico Janssen, PA0DLO, and Alan Biddle, WA4SCA, for this week's update details.

[ANS thanks Ray Hoad, WA5QGD for the above information.]

Ham Talk Live Podcast Featuring KO4MA

If you missed the Ham Talk Live show featuring Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, on December 27 you can play back a recording of this episode at: https://www.spreaker.com/show/ham-talk-live then select Episode 146 - Making the Most of Satellite Time 27 Dec

Drew and Neil discussed getting the most out of satellite time. They talked about what to say, when to say it, and other etiquette and protocol issues so that you can make the most of your satellite operation!

Ham Talk Live is also available as a podcast on nearly all podcast sites: Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Google Play, SoundCloud, and iHeart Podcasts; and it's also available on YouTube.

[ANS thanks Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, and Ham Talk Live for the above information]

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AMSAT Awards Update

Here we are, the last half of 2018, in fact the end of 2018, I have
been posting all the Rover Awards on my Twitter account and tagging
@AMSAT. I will include all the Rover Awards here for those that do
not have Twitter.

What will you be doing for AMSAT's 50th Anniversary in 2019. Stay
tuned for some operating awards we have for you, AMSAT Members and
Non-AMSAT Members.

AMSAT Satellite Communicators Award for making their first satellite
QSO
Mike Lozano, KI7WIB
Harry Mueller, W1HMM
Kirk Miller, W0KM
Dennis Madarang, KD2QET
Colbie Dison, KN4NIM
Nathan Binder, BSA Troop 738
Jeffrey Howell, KO9P
Alex Van Patten, KC3LPC
Martin Gibson, VK2GIB
Tom Zimmerman, W9TTY
Michael Barry, KN4CFD
Billy Penley, KN4MKB
Bentley Skibell, WM1K
Rich Olson, W9TIT
Tom Snowden, KI7SNW

AMSAT Communications Achievement Award
Brad Brooks, WF7T, #585
Brennan Price, N4QX, #586
Michael Lozano, KI7WIB, #587

AMSAT South Africa Satellite Communications Achievement Award
Brad Brooks, WF7T, #US209
Brennan Price, N4QX, #US210

AMSAT Robert W. Barbee Jr., W4AMI Award
Charles Reiche, N3CRT, #96

AMSAT Rover Award (New for 2018)

Rover	Call
028	K4FTP
029	KB2YSI
030	N3CRT
031	N2WLS
032	K2MTS
033	AI6DO
034	KD8RTT

035 AD7DB
036 AB5SS
037 W9TWJ
038 WN9Q
039 KM6NJL
040 KM4LAO

To see all the awards visit http://www.amsat.org and click on
Services then Awards.

[ANS thanks Bruce Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT Director of Contests and Awards
for the above information]

Upcoming Satellite Operations

+ Oahu (BL01, BL11) – December 28 to January 1, 2019
Gabe, AL6D willbe heading to Oahu, Hawaii, at the end of the year.
Plan is to operate from BL01 and BL10, linears and FM. Trip is
dependent on availability of cockpit jumpseat, so subject to cancel-
lation. Keep an eye on the @AL6D_Alaska Twitter for further updates
https://twitter.com/AL6D_Alaska

+ Azores (HM58) – December 30 to January 2, 2019
Pedro, CU2ZG, will spend the long New Year's weekend in HM58. Pedro
will operate holiday style on FM and linears. Skeds are accepted and
preferred, but keep in mind that being a family trip availability
constrains might occur. Confirmations via LoTW using plain CU2ZG
will be uploaded the following week, and any direct QSL will get a
proper reply. Updates posted on Twitter and publicly viewable at
https://twitter.com/pdsousa.

+ Point Pelee National Park, Canada (EN81) – January 1, 2019
Ron, AD0DX, and Mike, W8LID plan to active Point Pelee National Park
on New Year's Day to kick of the Canadian National Parks on the Air
(CNPOTA) event. Keep an eye on their Twitter accounts for further
updates: https://twitter.com/ad0dx and https://twitter.com/w8lid

+ Central California (CM95, CM96, DM05, DM06) – January 5, 2019
Ron, AD0DX will activate the CM95, CM96, DM05, DM06 grid corner on
January 5th. Keep an eye on the @ad0dx Twitter feed for more updates
https://twitter.com/ad0dx

+ Central California (CM95, CM96, DM05, DM06) – January 12, 2019
David, AD7DB, will be in the area of Kettleman City CA near a conver-
gence of four grids, operating on FM satellites. Grids (maybe grid-
lines) will depend on the satellite passes. Operation expected from
1700 UTC through 2300 UTC. Updates will be on Twitter as the time
approaches: https://twitter.com/ad7db

+ Quartzfest Arizona (DM23) – January 19-27, 2019
John, N7JY, will be operating FM satellites on a holiday schedule. He
may also visit some adjoining grids. There will likely be other hams
operating from the event, located a few miles south of Quartzsite AZ.
QSL via LOTW, or you can send your card with SASE

+ Las Vegas NV and Northwest AZ (DM25, DM26, DM36) – January 20-22, 2019
David, AD7DB, will be in Las Vegas at DM25/26 line, operating on FM
satellites on a holiday schedule. In addition, weather permitting,
sometime on Monday 01/21/19 he will make a side trip to Beaver Dam AZ
to activate from DM36aw. Updates will be on Twitter as the time
approaches: https://twitter.com/ad7db

[ANS Thanks Robert Bankston, KE4AL, for the above information]

Satellite Shorts from All Over

+ PW-Sat2 Sail Deployment
PW-Sat2 has deployed its deorbiting sail experiment ahead of schedule. See PWSat2 on Twitter for more information https://twitter.com/PWSat2 (PWSat2 on Twitter)

+ NJ4Y Worked All States
Congratulations to Matt, NJ4Y for earning the ARRL Worked All States - Satellite award #367. Matt tweeted, "This is probably the toughest radio award I've ever worked towards, and one of my favorites. Thanks especially to AC0RA, K8BL, and AL6D for my last 4 states over the past year, Oregon, Mississippi, Alaska, and Hawaii! (NJ4Y via Twitter)

+ NPR Highlights Cubesats
National Public Radio posted an article on December 26th entitled "What's Next for Tiny Satellites." The article may be found at https://tinyurl.com/ANS-364-NPR

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT office.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of six post-secondary years in this status.

Contact Martha at the AMSAT office for additional student membership information.

Happy New Year and 73,
This week's ANS Editor,

Paul Stoetzer, N8HM
n8hm at amsat dot org